

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00616 021037Z

14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 021020Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1181

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 0616

1. MAY DAY EVENTS IN LENINGRAD CONSISTED OF USUAL WORKERS' FILE-BY IN PALACE SQUARE WITH TOP 'BLAST' AND CITY PARTY/ GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WAVING TO THE THREE AND A HALF HOUR PROCESSION OF SHUFFLING FEET. SOME 900,000 LENINGRADERS WALKED BY THE REVIEWING STAND AND A FEW FORTUNATES MANAGED TO RIDE IN THE MOTORIZED FLOATS. THERE WERE NO SPEECHES. LEADERSHIP PORTRAITS FOLLOWED USUAL PRECEDENCE PATTERN, AND ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE IN WHAT DARK WAREHOUSE ALL THOSE PORTRAITS OF SHELEPIN ARE NOW GATHERING DUST.

2. INTERESTING VARIANT THIS YEAR WAS LACK OF SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS MOORED IN THE NEVA RIVER. THE MOORINGS BUOYS HAD BEEN PLACED IN RIVER DURING PAST WEEK AND INTENTION WAS CLEARLY TO HAVE VESSELS TAKE UP THEIR STATIONS ON APRIL 30. HOWEVER, BUOYS WERE REMOVED THAT DAY AND NO SHIPS APPEARED. HEAD OF DIPLOMATIC AGENCY, POPOV, NOTED BRIEFLY THAT DECISION MADE TO DEFER DEPLOYMENT OF VESSELS UNTIL MAY 9 IN CONNECTION WITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES. CHANGE IN PLANS WAS CLEARLY LAST MINUTE IN VIEW OF ALL THE WORK THAT WENT INTO PLACING AND REMOVING THE BUOYS DURING LAST DAYS OF APRIL.
NEUBERT

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